Dewan's reply.—This has actually been the practice hitherto and will continue so hereafter under the rules recently issued under the Land Revenue Code.

Subject No. 76.
Free grant of Honne, Hunal and Bilvara trees for agricultural implements.

Summary of discussion.—Raiyats are put to much inconvenience owing to the new reservation of lands by the Forest Department. Wood of the unreserved class is not fit for agricultural implements. Raiyats should be permitted to use such wood as Honne, Hunal and Bilvara for the above purpose and they should also be allowed to cut the trees of these kinds in State Forests when the same are not available in the jungles left as *mufat*, to the raiyats of the respective villages.

Dewan's reply.—This is impossible. Sufficient jungle as far as possible has been allotted to the village communities, and favorable rates of seigniorage have already been granted. Further concessions do not seem feasible. The people of Kasaba Shikarpur who have no jungle near them cannot be helped.

Subject No. 77.
Responsibility of Khatedar for sandal trees on his Khate land.

Summary of discussion.—The present rule makes the Khatedar responsible for the destruction by fire, of, or other accidental damage to, sandal trees standing on his Khate land thereby rendering him liable to pay the value of the trees so destroyed. It is impossible for the Khatedar to have an eye on these trees as he possesses lands in different places. The Khatedar should be made responsible only for the damage done by him wilfully or through his carelessness and not for the damage caused otherwise.

Dewan's reply.—This is impossible. A rule of long standing is that the Khatedar is bound to take care of the sandal trees growing on his lands. The rule cannot be relaxed. Cases of sandal growing on old occupied lands are comparatively rare. In recently occupied lands where grown up trees exist, the lands were taken up with the trees on them and therefore there can be no hardship. Occupation, under law, carries with it the duty of protecting the sandal trees. Wilful damage to them is criminally punishable.

Subject No. 78.
Tank repair contracts should be given to local men.

Summary of discussion.—Contracts for the repair and restoration of tanks should be given, as far as possible, to local men interested in the tank and in its security and efficiency. They are, as a rule, given to outsiders who have no interest in the tank and who only look to the profit they can gain by the contract and are thus under a temptation to turn out bad work.

Dewan's reply.—This has often been represented before and the order exists to give preference to local men. But the complaint on the part of the Public Works Department Offi-